

## Peer Mentors and Educational Coaches



The terms “peer mentors” and “educational coaches” are often used interchangeably. In fact, there are very slight differences between these 2 types of supports provided to students with intellectual or developmental disabilities attending college.

### Things that peer mentors and educational coaches have in common:

- They are there to assist with the inclusion of students in campus life, including course access and social activities.
- They are people who provide more intensive, wrap-around supports that are not offered by the Disability Services Office of the college
- May provide more intense support in the beginning, but might fade to less support as the semester progresses

### Ways in which peer mentors and educational coaches might differ:

- Peer mentors are just that, peers. They are fellow students who are the same age as the person with a disability. Some colleges pay their peer mentors, others do not.
- Meanwhile, educational coaches may not be enrolled in the college, may be older than the student and are almost always paid.

### For More Information & Other Resources:

[Coaches and Mentors: Helping College Students Thrive](#) (Maria P's digital story on coaches and mentors) (2:01)

[NKU/SHEP Mentoring Partnership Project](#) (11:10)

Student-Educational Coach Agreement (doc)

Sample Educational Coach Job Description (doc)

Call out quote for the website:

*“Coaches are detectives & anthropologists, identifying a variety of strategies and methods which will allow the person to be a valued and accepted student/worker, with the absolute minimum of support provided directly by the coach.”*

